

Applicants reiterate those arguments expressed in the prior amendment which are incorporated herein by reference.

The Theriot, et al. patent teaches a modified, promoted BF_3 catalyst used to catalyze the oligomerization of olefins (see column 1, lines 9-12). The catalyst system taught by the Theriot, et al. patent necessarily includes the three components of boron trifluoride, a protic promoter, and a modifier (see e.g., column 3, lines 49-51). The modifier must be a nitrogen compound having at least one moiety in which a carbonyl group is directly bonded to the nitrogen atom (see column 2, lines 59-61). It is thus recognized that the Theriot, et al. patent teaches a catalyst system necessarily containing three components, one of which is the described nitrogen compound.

The Cupples, et al. patent teaches the use of a catalyst system of only two components. The catalyst system described is a complex of boron trifluoride and a cocatalyst. (See column 3, lines 32-56.)

Any combination of the primary and secondary references cited by the Examiner will provide a boron trifluoride-containing catalyst system having one of the nitrogen compounds disclosed by the Theriot, et al. patent. On the other hand, the catalyst system of the Applicants' claimed improved process does not require the presence of the nitrogen compounds taught by Theriot, et al. Moreover, Applicants' claimed process requires the use of a catalyst system having two components that are additional to the boron trifluoride. Neither the primary nor the secondary reference suggests that more than one protic promoter compound may be used in their catalyst systems. The references suggest the use of only one protic promoter compound that may be selected among a laundry list of compounds. The secondary reference of Cupples, et al. suggests

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only that its catalyst system is a two component system, and the primary reference of Theriot, et al. suggests only that its catalyst system is a three component catalyst system with one of the components being a nitrogen compound. Applicants' invention, on the other hand, uses a three component catalyst system, which does not necessarily include a nitrogen compound as is required by the teachings of the Theriot, et al. patent.

In view of the above discussed distinctions and those expressed in Applicants' prior response, it is clear that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the prior art. Early allowance of claims 1-9 is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 9, 2002
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